THE NORTH INDIA UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
SAHARANPUR, U. P., INDIA

REV. JOHN W. BOWMAN, M. A., B. D.,
SECRETARY TO THE FACULTY.

November 11th, 1928.

Dear Stew:

Your very welcome letter came yesterday together with the Lockport paper giving the details of the new addition to your Church plant. It is indeed very, very fine, and we rejoice with you and the people of the 1st Church in this splendid addition to your material structure upon which and through which to erect that Temple of the Spirits of men and women and boys and girls in which God is supremely glorified. At our annual mission meeting, which is just past, I had occasion to give an address to our Mission Body, and I took occasion to stress the need both at home and on the foreign field of beautiful Churches: I referred, I am afraid, a little disparagingly, to that spirit which is occasionally found among missionaries- not often- that bemoans the large expenditure of money at home upon beautiful churches and cathedrals, money which, so it is said, might have been sent out here to convert the heathen. I took occasion to remark that the sentiment appears to rest on the materialistic idea that there is a direct ratio between the amount of money sent to the field and the product in redeemed and regenerated men and women! So you see what I think of your new building project; I glory in every dollar spent in raising up anywhere beautiful temples for God's worship. And I rejoice doubly with you in your success in this venture.

It was good to see in the paper so many familiar faces: I am introducing them to Mrs. B; I am sorry she has never so far become acquainted with them "in the flesh".

I shall keep in mind your suggestion about curios that may be of use in the Sabbath School rooms. They are not likely to cost as much here as the postage and customs on them would come to; so you need not worry about the cost. Occasionally one picks up something of interest in the villages especially. We are beginning our evangelistic work now in the villages for the winter and as the seminary is to have a hand in this I may find something of interest this winter. We are just about 40 miles from one of the most sacred parts of North India- Hardwar on the Ganges; there is to be a big Hindu gathering there soon, I think. One finds such curious usually on such an occasion.

You speak of a photograph of myself. Jack Turner at Princeton had several plates- cabinet size- of me

in 1919, but I suppose they would be destroyed by now. However, you might try him, as that is the latest I have had taken of any size. You know his address there in Princeton- Nassau Street would get him, I suppose. If he can't fix you up I shall have to get one taken next summer in the Hills. Sorry I can't do any thing better at present in this line! Did you receive a cabinet photo of our family group a few weeks back? It would not have arrived by the time your present letter was written, I think. It is not as good as one could hope for- rather English in type and the English photographer was just a bit gruff; he hurt Scottie's feelings as is visible in the picture!

The paper in which my sermon appeared- the one on Peter- is published out here by Stanley Jones' college roommate. He is, like Stanley, somewhat on the Liberal side, I am told,- a splendid, keen fellow all the same and one of the ablest men the Methodists have here. I told him I was afraid my sermon might be too conservative for him, but he has asked for more!

We have just heard the results of the Presidential election and are not disappointed!

Annual Mission Meeting brought us a number of new responsibilities, as it usually does, but they are mostly of the uninteresting committee variety; so I shall not weary you with them. I am preparing a course of lectures at present, giving it simultaneously to the whole seminary body in the evenings in Hindustani, on the subject of "A Devotional Study of Christian Hymnody". I am beginning with a couple rather general lectures on Worship to lead up to the particular theme. Later I hope to go through Greek, Latin, and English hymn history in a somewhat sketchy way, using as a basis largely those hymns which are found in Hindustani in our Presbyterian Hymnal- i.e. translations from the languages mentioned. Last sabbath evening in English and this morning in Hindustani I conducted Song Services, using only Greek Hymns in the first and Greek and Latin ones in the second, speaking on each hymn and its writer in the usual way before singing it. Strange to say just yesterday I developed myself such a cold in the larynx that I could not sing a note this morning and scarcely speak loud enough to be heard at all! Rather an anomolous situation!

The regular seminary routine goes merrily on in both English and Hindustani- I have also all the Greek, as you will recall. The boys are keen about my Grk Ms., especially so as it is beginning to attract the attention of scholars here and there. I am in correspondence with Dr. S.C.E.Legg of London, chairman of the joint British and German committee that is revising Tisch.viii; he is quite keen about my collation of Mark and wants the whole of my work, which he promises to use in the new work.

With our best regards to you all and to the many friends in 1st Church,

Cordially yours,

John W Barnes

659 Newark Avenue.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ELIZABETH, N. J.

November 17th, 1928

Rev. Stewart M. Robinson, D.D.
Lockport, N.Y.

My dear Robinson:

It gives me great pleasure to second the motion of the Second Church in inviting you to come to Elizabeth. I was not able to see you when you preached in the Church some weeks ago though I fully intended to do so, but I very much hope that you will accept the call. Mrs. Crane and I will welcome you and Mrs. Robinson to a place in our Presbyterian ministerial fellowship. Your father and I have been friends for many years and as you know associated in the work of the Seminary. I think I have met you when you were a student in the Seminary and I have watched your progress with great interest.

The Second Church is a great Church. Dr. Cobb's long ministry was a very fruitful one and he had the good sense to resign while he was still going strong. They have been thoroughly trained and are especially responsive to pastoral guidance. Some of the best men in the city are members of that Church. Fendrich's brief ministry brought in a large number of new members though he did not stay long enough to incorporate them into the life of the Church. That will be part of your task. Elizabeth is growing rapidly and great industrial corporations like the Standard Oil and Western Electric are sending quantities of high grade men with their families to settle in Elizabeth and surrounding communities. It is true that their tenure is somewhat uncertain but when they leave they are replaced by others as good and there is always a large number of possible hearers to be gained from among them.

The Sunday School and young people's work is very inspiring and should call out a man's best service.

I hope very much that you will consider the call seriously and if possible accept. It is a matter of personal concern to me to secure a man in the Second Church who will be congenial as the relations between Westminster and Second Church have been always most cordial.

Sincerely yours,

L B Crane

L. B. CRANE.

LBC/E

659 Newark Avenue.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ELIZABETH, N. J.

November 20th, 1928.

Rev. Stewart M. Robinson, D.D.,
First Presbyterian Church,
Lockport, N. Y.

My dear Robinson:

In my former letter I think I anticipated most of your questions in regard to the Second Church, but I will be a little more specific in reply to some of the topics mentioned in your letter.

I think I told you that the Second Church was the strongest church we have here in Elizabeth. It has a large and loyal membership and I do not think there is any serious division of opinion in the Church. There was not at least during Dr. Cobb's pastorate except perhaps a negligible difference in regard to the question of moving the church which came up at the very end of his pastorate and of which I shall speak again a little later.

In regard to Fendrich. Fendrich was a great advertiser with very radical views about publicity and his work brought the church into the limelight in a way which was different from their past practice and not especially congenial ~~with~~ to the older members of the congregation. At the meeting of the congregation which called you at an advanced salary the chairman of the Committee showed on the blackboard how the salary could be raised without material change in the budget. This was to be accomplished by a substantial reduction in the amount allowed for advertising and printing and stationery for which $1900.00 had been provided formerly. This will give you an idea of Fendrich's publicity program. He also was very attentive to the younger people of the congregation and some of the older people felt somewhat aggrieved. Just how serious was the difference in the official board I do not know but from something Fendrich let drop while he was deciding on the Brooklyn call I judge that he felt somewhat hampered in the development of his program. Fendrich was a great drawing card but I suspect that his powers of developing the Christian life and ideals of his converts were not commensurate

with his powers of attraction.

There is a problem which the Second Church will have to face and which it has already faced in a way and that is the matter of location. As you know there are three churches very close together. The First Church will never and can never move. All its traditions are associated with the historic site on which it is located. That leaves the Second and Third Church very close together and though each has a large congregation eventually one of them will have to move; just which it will be no one can say. The Second Church is of course in the stronger position so far as its clientele is concerned. On the other hand its property is much more valuable. I do not think this situation is at present pressing and will have to be worked out after a few years. On the whole if, as you suggest, I were giving advice to my own son and if I thought he had the aptitude for aggressive work and the patience and persistence to develop his people I should advise him to accept the call. I do not believe there is a better opportunity than that in the Synod of ~~Elizabeth,~~ N.J. and again I would say as I said in my former letter that from my personal point of view I have strong hopes that you will come.

You know my attitude on the important questions which are before the church at the present time and I have not too many sympathetic friends among the pastors of the vicinity and I would welcome your fellowship.

Very sincerely yours,

L. B. Crane

L. B. CRANE.

LBC/E

1103 MARY STREET
ELIZABETH, N. J.

November 20th 1928

My dear Brother Robinson;

I did not attend the Parish Meeting at which you were called to the Pastorate of the Second Church of Elizabeth N J nor have I written to you since; because I wanted, if possible, to efface myself and to have you decide the question as if I did not exist.

Nevertheless I feel now that the time has come for me to say that you have received a call from a body of intelligent and loyal people who will follow your guidance whithersoever you may desire to lead.

Elizabeth is growing by leaps and bounds . There is plenty of work to be done . And the Second Church has always been eager to do its part.

No one ever had a more delightful Pastorate, continuing over nearly forty years, than I had and you will find also a happy field of service if you feel constrained, as I am hoping and praying may be the case, to accept tthir call.

You can count upon me to help; but can also be assured that , just as much as possible , I shall keep out of the way and leave you free to lead as may seem to you best.

1103 MARY STREET
ELIZABETH, N. J.

I may say, further, that I have not attended a meeting of the Session since I left the Pastorate save last Month when they asked me to conduct the Communion for them . I am away almost every Sunday and in every other way try to efface myself.

I make bold to mention these facts; because I know that, oftimes, an old Pastor in the Congregation seems to stand in the way of the new Pastor's work. But, in this case, I do not think you need to have fears.

Because I know how the hearts of the people have turned to you and because of the very remarkable way in which you won their affection when you were here and because I know that there is a great work here to be done - therefore I am hoping that you may be moved of God to come .

But, in any event, do not forget that I am praying that you may be divinely lead in this which I know is a momentous decision to you.

Sincerely Yours

Elm. B. Cobb